

Filed for intro on 04/27/95
House Bill _____
By _____

Senate No. SJR0200
By Rochelle

A RESOLUTION to honor and congratulate Laura Beth Thomas,
Friendship Christian School valedictorian.

WHEREAS, this General Assembly is extremely proud of those dedicated and diligent young citizens of our state who have worked hard and achieved excellence in their academic careers; and

WHEREAS, Laura Beth Thomas is an outstanding student, who has distinguished herself as the valedictorian of the 1995 graduating class at Friendship Christian School; and

WHEREAS, through long hours of industrious study, steady composure during examinations and untiring commitment of time and intellectual talent, Laura Beth has accomplished extraordinary academic success, and has joined the ranks of the elite students of Tennessee and our nation; and

WHEREAS, she had the unique honor of having the highest grade point average each of her four years of high school: 98.857 as a freshman, 98.686 as a sophomore, 99.114 as a junior and 98.891 as a senior; and

WHEREAS, her ACT composite of 29, with a 31 in English; 28 in Math, 31 in reading and a 26 in Science, along with an SAT composite of 1,150, with a 490 Verbal and 660 in Math; are clearly highly exceptional and noteworthy; and

WHEREAS, her lengthy list of prestigious academic honors include receiving the Bible Award (ninth and tenth grades), the Physical Science Award (ninth grade), the Biology Award (tenth grade), the Chemistry Award (eleventh grade), the Algebra 1 Award (ninth grade), the Algebra 2 Award (tenth grade), the Geometry Award (eleventh grade), the Latin 1 Award (ninth grade), the Latin 2 Award (tenth grade), the English 3 Award (eleventh grade) and the Health Award (eleventh grade); and

WHEREAS, she has been on the Principal's List and has been listed in the eminent *Who's Who Among American High School Students* all four years of high school, won the Academic Basketball Award, with the highest grade point average on the team (ninth, tenth and eleventh grades), and received the Tennessee Secondary School Athletic Association's Distinguished Scholastic Achievement Award (ninth, tenth and eleventh grades) and the TSSAA Student Athlete Award of Merit (ninth, tenth and eleventh grades); and

WHEREAS, Laura Beth has provided strong, dynamic leadership to the school Key Club (9-12), as vice-president (11-12), as an organizer and participant in parties for the local Headstart program (9-11) and as an organizer and participant in the "Adopt A Highway" program (11); to the National Honor Society (10-12) as secretary (11) through "Make A Difference Day", and providing Christmas assistance to needy families (9-11); as a member of the Student Council (10); as a Leader of the Right Team/Pass Team and as a DARE role model for fifth and sixth graders; and

WHEREAS, she has also lent her time and considerable ability to the Environmental Club (11-12); as a member of Problem Solvers, winning first place in the State Skit Competition and first place in the State Alternatives Competition; as a member of the Math team; as class president (9-10); as the Hugh O'Brian Youth Representative; as a Girl's State Representative (11), having been elected to their House of Representatives and to the Power Board; as a member of the Banquet Committee for the Junior-Senior Banquet at Friendship Christian; as an invitee to the National Youth Leadership Forum (11), and as an invitee to the Presidential Classroom (11); and

WHEREAS, Laura Beth has also served on the Homecoming Court (9), was the Class Favorite (9), had perfect school attendance (9-11), was a member of the cast of a school play George Washington Slept Here (12), was a participant in the FCHS Talent Show “Evening of the Arts”, won numerous first, second and third place award ribbons at the Wilson County Fair (9-12) and has owned a highly successful business, LBTees, since 1990; and,

WHEREAS, her great athletic career includes being a member of the school basketball team (all four years), lettering in three of those years, being an elementary school instructor (all four years), and participating in Powder Puff Football (tenth, eleventh and twelfth grades); and

WHEREAS, her storied elementary and junior high school education was at Ezell-Harding K-4th grades and Friendship Christian 5th through 7th grades; and

WHEREAS, a devout member of the Maple Hill Church of Christ, in Lebanon, Tennessee, Laura Beth has evinced her deep and abiding faith in God by serving on the church Youth Leadership Team (10-12); and the excellent Lads to Leaders and Leaderettes program (9-12), where she has participated in National Competition in the following areas: Speech (9-11), third place (9-10), Puppets (9-11), first place (10), second place (9), Banner (9-10), Scrapbook (9), Hostess (10) and Leaderette of the Year (9); and

WHEREAS, she has also made a significant effort to “spread the Word” effectively serving as a Vacation Church School teacher (9-10); as a Nashville Inner City Vacation Bible School teacher (9); as a World Bible School teacher (12); worker in Youth Group community service projects; as a valued member of the cast of the Wizard of Oz play at the Widows Banquet; as a junior counselor at the Freed-Hardeman University Mid-South Youth Camp, where she was chosen Best Camper (9) and Best Junior Counselor (9-11) and as a member of the Jamaican Medical Mission Trip; and

WHEREAS, Laura Beth is a source of tremendous pride to her parents, Reed and Tricia Thomas, her sister, Kathryn Dee Thomas, who also attends Friendship Christian and grandparents, Richard and Buela Thomas of Livingston and Derrick and Margaret Widick of Nashville, principal Joe Widick and headmaster Pat Hackney; and

WHEREAS, the accomplishments of Laura Beth Thomas are deserving of the respect, admiration, and commendation of this legislative body; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, That we honor and congratulate Laura Beth Thomas on becoming the 1995 Friendship Christian School valedictorian.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That appropriate copies of this resolution be prepared for presentation, with this final clause omitted from such copies.